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NEW BOARD CHAIRMAN

Baltimore, Maryland - January 16, 2007 - Leslie King-Hammond, PhD., has been elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture (RFLM).

In assuming the chairmanship of RFLM, King-Hammond shared her vision for the Museum. "We are uniquely positioned not only to introduce Maryland's African American experience to our nation and the world, but also to bring the world to Maryland, by offering exhibitions, programming and initiatives which allow Marylanders to explore cultures and experiences from across the African Diaspora," she said. "As we have in the past, we remain committed to developing partnerships with institutions, corporations, schools, and other community-oriented stakeholders to achieve these goals."

"I am absolutely thrilled that Leslie has taken on this expanded role with the Board," said Dr. David Taft Terry, RFLM Executive Director, adding, "George L. Russell, Jr., [RFLM's founding chairman] has placed us upon a solid foundation and provided the necessary forward momentum; Maryland owes him a debt of gratitude that can never fully be repaid." "Yet, in honor of what George has given, I can think of no one better suited to lead us now than Leslie King-Hammond," Terry said. Mr. Russell will remain on the board, devoting his energies to fundraising.

Dr. King-Hammond, Dean of Graduate Studies and Professor of Art History, at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), has more than thirty years experience in cultural institutions. Beyond her duties at MICA she has compiled an impressive track record of professional service. A former president of the College Art Association, King-Hammond serves on the Executive Board of the International Association of Art Critics. She is also a widely exhibited artist in her own right. Her works were featured in *The Art of 9/11*, curated by Arthur Danto in New York City, and in the traveling exhibition, *It's for the Birds*, organized by the Bernice Steinbaum Gallery in Miami.

She holds a BA - University of Minnesota, an MLA - Louisiana State University-Shreveport, an MFA - University of Maryland, and a Ph.D. - Johns Hopkins University.

The RFLM opened June 2005 and is second largest African American museum in the nation. Located in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, it is dedicated to sharing the courageous journeys toward freedom and self-determination made by African American Marylanders. The museum is a place for all people, from all backgrounds to remember struggles, celebrate accomplishments and experience culture.

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